

August 26, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR: NOS Spatial Data Synergy Team Members

FROM: Captain Ted I. Lillestolen, NOAA
Deputy Assistant Administrator

SUBJECT: Direction to the Team

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the outstanding job you have done to date on the Spatial Data Synergy Team. The Senior Management Council (SMC) was very pleased with the accomplishments that were presented at the NOS Retreat in July. I realize that times were difficult during Millington's illness. We all suffered a great loss at his passing and will miss his enthusiasm, knowledge, and dedication. During the last six months he continued to voice his wish that NOS move forward with implementing the principles of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), that we improve cooperation and communication both internally and externally, and that we become a model for all of NOAA.

In that light, I want to outline and reiterate some directions I'd like the team to take in FY 2000. NOS endorses and supports your collective efforts in the following:

- Cataloging, evaluating, and prioritizing all NOS geospatial assets, including biological, chemical, and physical spatial data, associated metadata, and Web-based delivery systems for those data.
- Assisting in the transformation, capture, and documentation of spatial data into accessible forms. This assistance can take many forms, such as metadata training, guidance in database design, or user needs analysis.
- Providing guidance for opportunities to leverage internal and external funding sources to transform, capture, or document geospatial data.
- Facilitating user searches by designing and implementing a unified NOS delivery (gateway or portal) system to point to NOS geospatial data resources.
- Developing a comprehensive data access policy for NOS.

- Continuing to open internal and external lines of communication and look for enterprise solutions that support the entire organization.

I concur with your priority to develop the NOS shoreline and bathymetric databases as these are of significant interest to NOS. In addition, I would like you to identify all NOS spatial data Web sites and ensure their inclusion in your proposed data delivery system. As part of developing an NOS data access policy, procedures should be recommended on how Offices should “register” the many creative and valuable NOS sites that have been developed now and in the future such that they can continue to be incorporated into the delivery system. It should be our goal to make our data sets easily available to the widest audience possible and to integrate an NOS presence to external users.

I take the work you are doing very seriously and will support your efforts wherever possible. Please take special care to keep your Office Director aware of your Team's activities, any discussions and expectations that effect your Office, and the scheduling concerns you may have due to workload. Remember that as Team Members you are your Office's points of contact both to and from the Team.

Overall, NOS leadership thought that the Spatial Data Synergy Team was on the right path and they look forward to seeing the results of your efforts over the upcoming months. Keep up the good work!

Team Members:

N/CO-OPS	- Steve Gill	N/NGS	- Jon Bailey
N/CS	- Steve Baumgardner		- Greg Fromm
	- Mike Brown		- Doug Graham
	- Maureen Kenny		- Charlie Schwarz
	- Curt Loy	N/OCRM	- Dwight Reynolds
N/CSC	- Cindy Fowler	N/OR&R	- George Graettinger
	- Anne Miglarese		- Robert Pavia
	- Miki Schmidt	N/SPO	- Tim Goodspeed
N/NCCOS	- Tina Armstrong		- Peter Grose
	- Randy Ferguson		- Mark Jacobsen
			- Chris Taylor

cc:

N/CO-OPS	- R. Barazotto
N/CS	- D. MacFarland
N/CSC	- M. Davidson
N/IPO	- C. Ehler
N/MB	- J. Oliver
N/NCCOS	- D. Scavia
N/NGS	- C. Challstrom
N/OCRM	- J. Benoit
N/OR&R	- D. Kennedy
N/SPO	- D. Basta